

Aug 17, 1972

Dear Harold,

Just got all your notes for which thanks mucho and will answer immediately.

My original source re China, Cuba and drugs from China in general, is Striso who was a prisoner there - the circumstances of which I am not too familiar. But I do think it is responsible for his being frankly - slightly hysterical about China, CIA and drugs. He told me he was threatened with death daily for over a year, that he actually KNOWS about the drugs there, and from his hatred of the CIA and his love for the United States (really, he's a patriot) - I can only make the conclusion I have made. Now - only recently (when Nixon went to China) a CBS newsman bluntly stated on the radio that Nixon made a great concession when he overlooked ~~xxxx~~ the fact that China was the greatest producer of heroin (I think that's the ~~drug~~ drug) in the world. This backs up Striso, no? Which doesn't mean it still can't be wrong - but it certainly needs explaining. Also, when Anderson writes about Chinese, why doesn't he identify what Chinese? Since we now are buddies with mainland China this is confusing. Or, does he ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ think we understand "Chinese" to be from the mainland since the others are Formosans. What is also not clear to me is: how is it The Chinese and not the citizens from the "Golden Triangle" countries are doing the peddling? Also not clear is: ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ could the plants be grown in mainland China and processed in the other countries? Are these 3 other countries capable of growing such quantities without China. Also, note that Anderson identifies the Chinese seamen "most of them from non-Communist Asian countries" - which would bear out what you say - all of which leaves me uncertain to ~~ex~~ put it mildly. So, if you can clarify - would appreciate it.

Re machete: When and if I get another trip partially paid for like the last one - the other part of the trip was borrowed and is still owing. RD said they were scared to death of the repercussions of such a story and won't print it. However, Franz ~~Furx~~ Furst is handling it, but won't be back from Europe until the end of the month. Talk about broke, like we're all work and no money!

Re: Watergate: Up to the present have been able to find out from ~~xxx~~ Velasquez (Kaplan's former attorney) that the Mexican attorney involved doesn't appear to be innocent at all in light of his cloudy reputation - and said in checking his clients I would run into sugar dealers. Which is the contention of the NY Times man, since he is theorizing that the Mexican connection in this could be funds from the sugar people here to support Nixon because US controls the sugar quotas and how much and for how much can be bought ~~xxxxxxx~~ by the US which pays much more than any other country. For all we know there might be a ~~xxx~~ drug connection - smuggling would be so easy - Kaplan did it. At this point, how ~~w~~ can we really know who is on what side? One faction of the CIA, for example, is fighting trafficking while another is helping it. Like if we got a substitute for money, maybe they'd go out of business.

As soon as I have further info on this will let you know. The American Embassy is silent as death and the press officer said confidentially they were told to pretend it didn't happen.

Re Kaplan book: Finally contacted NY attorneys thru reliable ones here: Liddy, Sullivan, Hart, Daniels Y Baxley. Said they'd be glad to ~~xxx~~ take my case on contingent basis ONLY I would have to pay out-of-pocket fees as they occur, plus if it goes into litigation, would need thousands of dollars for depositions, my presence would be necessary, etc. All of which makes it impossible for me to pursue. Then, there is the latest rumor, that Kaplan himself is doing the book, which would leave me without a claim at all. Asinof, by the way, never did come to see Velasquez' files. How can I find out who actually is doing the book - not that it would matter - as I've said it doesn't seem possible to even sue. Perhaps my best bet is to wait until the book does come out and then write my first person version. It would be a lot more fun and give a lot of personal insight to the case. Actually, the first book might just be good publicity for mine. What do you think?

This Italian and ~~Mafkx~~ Chinese mafia affair could be a riotous movie. Like look what happened because Marco Polo discovered spaghetti in China! Did they really have to get so friendly down the centuries?

Striso's letter which accompanied clipping from NY Times re Watergate article of June 26 said:

"...the word from my contact in Red China is that a deal was made with ~~xxxxx~~ our people in not pushing the narco operations which are vast and would make them look bad. You were right..." (He is referring to what I wrote above about the CBS newscaster.)

"....the break re the Demo hqtrs is interesting and you should read it carefully. What were they searching for? The Democrats picked up some of the stuff re Pigs and the JFK killing which you have been working on. We may have a break in this election..."

Well, chum - guess we've got things to do. Best to you and Lil,

anytime
Karl
1/15/74
book